



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 17, 2001

S. 356

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act

As passed by the Senate on August 3, 2001

S. 356 would establish the National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, consisting of 20 members, including a representative from each of the 14 states that comprise the former Louisiana Territory. The central office of the commission would be in Washington, D.C., with additional offices in New Orleans and St. Louis. The commission would plan and develop activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in December 2003. For this purpose, it would be authorized to accept and spend private donations. S. 356 would direct the General Accounting Office to perform an annual audit of the commission's financial transactions. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$750,000 over the 2002-2004 period to carry out its provisions.

CBO estimates that the commission would need to spend about \$1.8 million over the 2002-2004 period in order to fulfill the requirements of the bill—in particular, to set up and staff the three offices. Because S. 356 would allow the commission to accept and spend contributed funds, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the act. CBO estimates that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other.

S. 356 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.